GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The development of tourism is primarily the responsibilty of State Governments. However, the central Goevrnment extends financial assistance for supplementing the efforts of State Governments in augmenting/creating tourism infrastructure facilities. Such assistance is given on projects project basis, dependent upon their merits, interse priorities and aavilabilty of funds. Funds were sanctioned to Government of Karnataka for development of tourism infrastructure, based on the projects/schemes posed by them.

Time slot to private complaines/persons on Metro/private channel

*12. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of companies and persons have applied for private Channel on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, what are the names thereof;

(c) what is the criteria as well as mechanism for the allotment of private channel on Doordarshan; and

(d) what is the number of parties have been allotted private channel on Doordarshan including the Metro Channel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Doordarshan only invited applications for allotment of time slots between 8.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. on its existing metro channels at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

(b) The list is attached. [*See* Appendix, CLXVI, Annexure No. 1]

(c) The criteria is attached (Annexure-III). [*See* Apuendix CLXVI, Annexure No. 2]

(d) Forty one.

Time limit on local telephone calls

*13. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a time limit on local phone calls;

(b) whether several consumer protection Groups have protested against this decision; and

(c) whether Government propose to withdraw this Scheme in the interest of the telephone users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir, in all electronic exchanges in systems with an equipped capacity of 30,000 lines or more.

(b) Yes, Sir. A few representations have been received.

(c) The department has examined them. Since this scheme gives an advantage of decongestion resulting in better efficiency, it is not proposed to withdraw the scheme.

Modification of the open sky policy

*14. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to change the "Open Sky Policy"; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The 'Open Sky' policy of the Government is in respect of air cargo flights only. There is no proposal at present to make any changes in this policy.